

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1-25 are pending. In the office action, claims 10, 15 and 20 are allowed; claims 1-9, 17-20 and 24 are rejected; and claims 11-14, 16, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation that the touch pad device has a peripheral area adjacent to the designated interaction area, and the optical sensor components including a first emitter, a second emitter and a receiver are provided in the peripheral. The support for the amendments can be found in Figure 2A and on p.9, lines 30-31 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant has amended claims 17 and 24 to include the limitation that the designated area comprises an inner area for designating the functions associated with the touch device and a peripheral area adjacent to an inner area for disposing the light emitters and receiver. The support for the amendments can be found in Figure 2A.

Applicant has cancelled claims 2-4 and 6.

Applicant has also added new claims 27-31. The support for new claims 27-29 can be found in Figure 7. The support for new claims 30 and 31 can be found in Figure 8D. No new matter has been introduced.

At section 2 of the office action, claim 1 is objected to because of the informalities. Applicant has corrected for informalities as suggested.

At section 4, claims 1-9, 17-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Holehan* (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,918).

It is respectfully submitted that *Holehan* discloses an optical mouse pad or scroll pad, where all the infrared sources 20 and the infrared detector 24 are located in the central portion of the pad. In contrast, the light emitters and receivers of the claimed invention are disposed in a peripheral area adjacent to the designated interaction area so that the functions associated with the touch pad device can be shown in the designated interaction area. *Holehan* only uses the touch pad to obtain the fingerprint (col.4, lines 34-39), or to locate the position of the finger so as

to move the cursor on the screen (col.4, lines 40-45). *Holehan* does not disclose or even suggest that a peripheral area adjacent to the touch area is used to dispose the light sensing components.

For the above reason, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 17 and 24 are distinguishable over the cited *Holehan* reference.

As for claims 5, 7-9, 18-20, they are dependent from claims 1 and 17 and recite features not recited in claims 1 and 17. For reasons regarding claims 1 and 17 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-9, 18-20 are distinguishable over the cited *Holehan* reference. Furthermore, new claims 27-31 are dependent from claims 1 and 17. For reasons regarding claims 1 and 17 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 27-31 are also distinguishable over the cited *Holehan* reference.

CONCLUSION

Application has amended claims 1, 17 and 24 to further distinguish the claimed invention over the cited reference. As amended, claims 1, 5, 7-9, 17-20, 24 and 17-31 are allowable. Early allowance of claims 1, 5, 7-9, 17-20, 24 and 17-31 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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